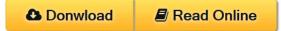


Sympathy and Science: Women Physicians in American Medicine

By Regina Morantz-Sanchez



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When first published in 1985, *Sympathy and Science* was hailed as a groundbreaking study of women in medicine. It remains the most comprehensive history of American women physicians available. Tracing the participation of women in the medical profession from the colonial period to the present, Regina Morantz-Sanchez examines women's roles as nurses, midwives, and practitioners of folk medicine in early America; recounts their successful struggles in the nineteenth century to enter medical schools and found their own institutions and organizations; and follows female physicians into the twentieth century, exploring their efforts to sustain significant and rewarding professional lives without sacrificing the other privileges and opportunities of womanhood.

In a new preface, the author surveys recent scholarship and comments on the changing world of women in medicine over the past two decades. Despite extraordinary advances, she concludes, women physicians continue to grapple with many of the issues that troubled their predecessors.

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Editorial Review

Review

An incisive history of the struggle of women to become doctors in this country. ("Newsweek")

"More than a feminist/medical history, this is an excellent reflection on the changing scene of American culture and values. ("Kirkus Reviews")"

"In this elegant study, Morantz-Sanchez analyzes what made these women tick, as professionals, as doctors, and as women. ("New England Journal of Medicine")"

A work of major significance. It is an important contribution to what ought to continue to be a dynamic exploration into the history of women doctors in America. ("Journal of American History")

"This is the first study to examine these events in the proper context and to connect the masculinization of medicine with two other transformations, scientific and professional. ("New York Times Book Review")"

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Review

An incisive history of the struggle of women to become doctors in this country. . . . Besides its feminist interest, [the book] opens out into general considerations of the medical profession today.--*Newsweek*

This careful and well-documented study deserves to be read by historians and members of the medical profession. It raises important issues that absorbed women doctors in the past--separatism, balancing family and career, specialty choices, professionalism, uniqueness--most of which continue to challenge women in the profession today. It is thoughtful and scholarly, as well as very readable, and it is highly recommended.--*Isis*

A landmark in the field. . . . It will have perceptible impact on feminism, on historical scholarship, and on medicine itself.--*Women's Review of Books*

In this book, the author accomplishes what historians have attempted to do with only partial success: she

delineates the intricate role of women physicians in America from Victorian times to the present without demeaning their struggles toward two ideals that often seem to be in conflict: feminism and femininity. In this elegant study, Morantz-Sanchez analyzes what made these women tick, as professionals, as doctors, and as women.--*New England Journal of Medicine*

This is the first study to examine these events in the proper context and to connect the masculinization of medicine with two other transformations, scientific and professional. It also tells a good story, with anecdotes as well as generalizations and with neither exaggeration nor simplification.--*New York Times Book Review*

A work of major significance. It is an important contribution to what ought to continue to be a dynamic exploration into the history of women doctors in America.--*Journal of American History*

An absorbing and richly detailed account. The author . . . is especially good at detailing the many currents and counter-currents that affected the course of women seeking professional careers. . . . More than a feminist/medical history, this is an excellent reflection on the changing scene of American culture and values.--*Kirkus Reviews*

From the Inside Flap

First published in 1985 to wide acclaim, this book is the most comprehensive history of American women physicians available, covering the period from colonial times to the present. This edition includes a new preface that reflects on the changing world of women in medicine over the past two decades.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Steve Diaz:

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